

## WRITING SKILLS – A DESCRIPTION

**Write a description of:**

**A: a place you know well**

**OR**

**B: a famous person you admire.**

### TIP - choosing the task

- Llegeix atentament les dues opcions que et donen.
- Fes un breu esquema sobre cada opció i anota el vocabulari útil.
- Pensa sobre quin tema et resultarà més fàcil escriure i tria'l.

**1a** Read the task above and the essay plans A and B below.

#### **A** Write a description of a place you know well.

Para 1: introduce place – north Spain, Navarre, old town  
v. attractive, good restaurants & hotels, lots places to visit, nightlife, famous for bull runs

Para 2: describe main attractions

- monuments / buildings – cathedral, main square, town hall, city walls
- other places to visit – Museum of Navarre, planetarium, beautiful parks, e.g. Tejera
- other things to do – walking (Camino de Santiago), visit villages, horse-riding, go to coast (beaches, fishing villages, surfing)

Para 3: conclusion – something for everyone, you'll have a good time

Useful words / expressions: famous for, well-known, spectacular, wonderful, plenty of, famous pilgrimage route, it's only a short walk / drive, stunning, excellent, go for a stroll / walk, worth visiting, head off to a club

#### **B** Write a description of a famous person you admire.

Para 1: introduce person, say why famous – Mother Teresa – famous for helping poor people in India

Para 2: details of life

- early life: born in ?? decided to go to India – when??
- character: hard-working, thoughtful, generous
- achievements: Nobel Prize (did she win it?) what else did she do? Is she still alive?

Para 3: conclusion – summarize life, give opinion

- admire because hard-working, tried to help poor people

Useful words / expressions: famous for, years later, role model

**b** Read the examiner's comments. Tick A or B depending on which plan they refer to.

- 1 L'esquema és clar i està ben organitzat.
- 2 En Mario no coneix gaire el tema i l'informació és incompleta.
- 3 L'esquema té molta informació sobre el tema.
- 4 En Mario coneix molt vocabulari útil relacionat amb el tema.

A B

☐ ☐

☐ ☐

☐ ☐

☐ ☐

**2a** Read the introduction to essay A.

Pamplona, which is in north Spain, is one of my favourite towns in Navarre. It is famous for the bull runs during the San Fermín festivals, but it has much more to offer visitors: there's a lovely old town, a variety of good hotels, good restaurants, a very good nightlife and many places to visit.

**b** Decide if the statements are true or false.

- 1 Mario includes relevant information. ☐
- 2 The information is well-organized. ☐
- 3 There is a good variety of vocabulary. ☐

## WRITING SKILLS – A DESCRIPTION

- 3 Rewrite the last part of the introduction. Choose words from the box to replace the underlined words.**

charming   excellent   great   attractive   plenty of   a huge variety of  
beautiful

- 4 Read Mario's second draft and answer the questions.**

- 1 Does Mario use a good variety of vocabulary? Underline some examples.
- 2 What useful words or phrases are there for a description? Make a list.

*Pamplona, which is in northern Spain, is one of my favourite towns in Navarra. It is famous for the bull runs during the San Fermín festivals, but it has much more to offer visitors: there's an attractive old town, a variety of good hotels, excellent restaurants, a great nightlife and plenty of places to visit.*

- 5 *Pamplona old town, with its narrow streets, is a charming place. It is well-known for its architecture: you can visit the spectacular cathedral and the town hall, walk round the city walls or sit in the beautiful main square. There are plenty of green places, such as the Tejera Park, to enjoy a quiet stroll too. The Museum of Navarra and the planetarium are also worth visiting. In the evening, you can try one of the many tapas bars or restaurants, and then head off to a club or café. Pamplona is on the Camino de Santiago, the famous pilgrimage route, and walkers can walk a part of it or hike in the nearby mountains. Around Pamplona there are many attractive villages to visit and places to go horse riding or cycling. It is only a short drive up to the north coast, where you can visit colourful fishing villages, go surfing or relax on one of the stunning beaches.*

*Pamplona has something for everyone and, whatever your reason for coming, you're sure to have a good time!*

- 5 Read the task below. Write a draft of your description, then ask yourself the following questions.**

- 1 Does your description answer the question?
- 2 Is your description well-organized?
- 3 Have you used a wide variety of vocabulary?

### TASK

**Write a description of:**

**A: a place you have visited**

#### TIP - using synonyms

Intenta no repetir paraules al teu article. L'examinador valorarà que el vocabulari sigui variat.

#### Exam Tip - Deciding which essay to write

A vegades costa decantar-se per una opció. Per tal d'ajudar-te a triar:

- llegeix els títols i assegura't que entens exactament el que et demanen. Si no n'estàs segur, tria una altra opció.
- fes un breu esquema ràpid de cada article, incloent-hi la informació que hauràs de donar. Sobre quina opció en saps més? Quina serà més senzilla?
- elabora una llista de vocabulari útil. Amb quina de les opcions tens la possibilitat d'emprar un vocabulari més variat?